

REDMOND PARK BOARD
Minutes
September 4, 2003
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Vice Chair Suzanne Querry at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present: Suzanne Querry, Seth Kelsey, David Degenstein, David Ladd, Sue Stewart; Youth Advocate Katherine Zak

Absent and excused: Chair Lori Snodgrass, Ann Callister

City staff present: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director; Jeanne Koetje, Public Works

Welcome to Citizen Guests: None present

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of August 7, 2003 Redmond Park Board minutes as submitted by: Sue Stewart

Second by: Dave Degenstein

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

III. Items from the Audience

Jeanne Koetje, Public Works, referenced the handout of the preferred NE 83rd Street corridor alternative, which was presented to City Council Tuesday (9/2/03). Although it is the preferred alternative, it was noted the Board would still have opportunity for comment. Cox emphasized that The Edge Skate Park might be redesigned in this widening. Hopkins noted the Bike-Ped Committee and Redmond Trails Commission are also both aware of the project.

The corridor widening and alignment evolved from pedestrian requests for safer crossings at the corner of 83rd Street and 161st Avenue NE. The following will be implemented:

- Traffic signal at 161st and 83rd (next year)

- Widening improvements, e.g., on-street parking (54 spots total), access to Park and Ride, etc. (as funds become available)

Money is currently only available for the traffic signal. Staff is attempting to acquire money from other partners, e.g., Metro, Sound Transit. When the downtown re-develops, staff will have the 83rd Street plan in place, ready for funding and development. The Downtown Master Plan calls for 164th and 166th streets to remain 4-lane roadways. Bike corridors would be located on NE 85th and Redmond Way (as supported by the Bike Ped committee).

Community involvement has included newsletters mailed to residents, web site posting, and a 7/17/03 open house where input was received. The Chamber of Commerce was involved as well.

Koetje reviewed the three sections of the design drawings noting these:

- 8-foot sidewalk and short term protected "drop-off" area by The Edge Skate Park
- Short term plan for bus loop: reconfiguration to make it safer
- Long term plan for bus loop: elimination
- Road areas emphasize mid-block crossings providing opportunity for artwork
- Relocation of Park and Ride access away from Skate Park and crosswalk

Anticipated schedule:

- Intersection and costs finalized this month (September)
- Planning and Public Works committee reviews the design (October)
- City Council approves design contract (November)

Querry requested staff include Park Board in the discussion when any impacts might occur to the skate park. She asked staff to educate the Board so they may help with the flow of people, bikes, and kids in that area. ***Staff will follow up with future communications to the Board regarding impacts to the skate park.***

Querry asked if it was possible to have a distinctive crosswalk—possibly a raised speed table, color, or pattern—one that Metro could tolerate. Stewart favored the crosswalk underneath the Bon-Macy Bridge at Redmond Town Center—a stamped textured, high contrast crosswalk. Querry, Degenstein, and Kelsey supported the idea of flashing lights, like those used at the crosswalk on Bear Creek Parkway. Koetje stated high pedestrian usage, which 83rd Street would be, was required to warrant that type of installation. ***Koetje will investigate the lighted crosswalk idea.***

On another note, Kelsey requested Public Works stripe a crosswalk in the area of a natural crossing from Bear Creek Trail across the parkway, just past Desert Fire restaurant. *Koetje asked Kelsey to send her an e-mail with the request.*

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

A. Handouts

- **Comprehensive Plan Draft Goals, Vision & Framework Policies - Follow up**
 - Page 7: Policy FW-24 and FW-25 have been modified to include comments from the Board's input last month.
 - The policies remain a broad overview in keeping with the rest of the policies.
- **WRPA Boards and Commission Workshop - October 4, 2003, Bellevue City Hall**
 - Cox noted that Parks would cover the costs if a Board member would like to attend.
- **Downtown Redmond - Invitation**
 - An invitation was extended to the Board to explore a map put out by Planning Department listing some of the walkways/trails and mid-block crossings in the downtown area.
- **Willows Creek Neighborhood Park - Resident's Letter/Pictures**
 - A neighbor complimented Parks for the playground improvements at Willows Creek Park.

B. Additions to Agenda

- **Banners/Signs at Hartman Park**
 - Degenstein expressed thanks to the Director and staff for removing signs at Hartman Park. He noted the neighbors were pleased and staff's efforts were recognized with appreciation.

V. Old Business

A. Joint Park Board/Trail/Arts Commission Meeting

Cox announced the joint Park Board, Trails Commission, and Arts Commission meeting would be held 9/24/03, 7:00 p.m., at the Senior Center lounge area.

The Trails Commission (RTC) has issued an informal invitation to the Board to gather at 6:00 p.m. at the Farmer's Market area of Redmond Town Center, for a stroll along the Bear Creek Trail to the Senior Center. RTC also suggested putting together some topics for discussion:

- Bear Creek Parkway extension
- Park Bond
- Municipal Campus recreation opportunities

Querry suggested the new City Hall as a topic. Hopkins added a side discussion could be how the Park Board and RTC could work together on an evolution of BNSF and the shop site issue. Another side discussion could be of the 1% for Art for the City Hall. Hopkins would like the issue of public art discussed, as the 1% is included in the construction costs.

Hopkins recommended a representative from the Park Board to be on the preliminary plan committee for the new City Hall. He also noted any park project would provide 1% for arts as well.

Kelsey asked whether the increased parking area would come under the lease buy-back. Hopkins referred the question to the planning staff directly. Cox suggested inviting Mike Paul, project manager for the new City Hall, to come to a Board meeting to present an overview/summary. Board asked he be invited to the October meeting. *Staff will invite Mike Paul for October 2.*

B. Idylwood Park Opportunity/Renewal Study

Hopkins announced he has signed the contract for the Idylwood Park renewal study; the contract was forwarded to Mayor Ives for signature as well. The Board will see the scope of work at the October meeting. The Board will have a significant role in gathering additional public input for the renewal study. The study will identify opportunities for implementation as funds become available. Target areas include:

- Playground
- Sammamish Rowing Association proposal
- Park Operations related to environmental preservation and enhancement
- Parking lot expansion alternatives
- Sand volleyball
- Community gathering spot

C. Park Bond Methodology & Discussion

Hopkins reported that the City of Kirkland presented to staff their strategy in building a consensus in reaching their community with a park bond, what projects were needed, and what the community was ready to support.

Hopkins reported he is preparing a presentation on the PIP's unfunded projects, adding more visual aspects and budget data to ascertain the needs. It should be ready in November. At that time he will ask the Board to decide if these projects should be funded, accelerated, or eliminated, as these decisions may prove helpful before a bond would go before the public.

Kirkland has a similar list to the PIP (theirs is funded), and they also have a PRO Plan. *Hopkins will get a copy of their list and their PRO Plan for the Board to review next month.*

Cox noted that Kirkland uses an advisory committee, and a bond committee made up of members removed from city staff. Those members had significant public identification with community trust, and an independent voice from city staff. Also, Kirkland hired professional people to phrase the questions that were asked in the bond.

Hopkins emphasized that timing would be important. Staff is now just finishing the PRO Plan. Hopkins would like to see a "Blue Ribbon" bond committee formed. It could be a subcommittee from the Park Board, since the Board is knowledgeable of the PRO Plan and park system.

It was noted that Kirkland has a strong co-partnering relationship with the school district. Hopkins explained that Kirkland is land-deficient and school district-dependent. Redmond uses school district facilities (some joint development), but is stronger on a program level, and therefore, is different than Kirkland.

As well as presenting the unfunded portion of the PIP in November, staff will touch upon projects slated for CIP years three through six. Hopkins encouraged the Board to also think about the CIP coming up in January 2004. He invited them to be involved in that process.

Cox reported that Bellevue also has park bond material they can offer Redmond, too. Bellevue parks' staff has offered to share information. The Board agreed Bellevue should be invited to a meeting. They asked for as much information and input as possible. *Staff will follow up with the invitation to Bellevue.*

Hopkins emphasized there must be a balance among land acquisition, new construction, and renewal—what is presented to the public, uniquely defined to the community. Cox added it is also important to stress successful bond activity in the past. The more discussion and perspective, the more the process will be strengthened.

Hopkins also explained that if the City builds a project, the City must also maintain it. It needs to be remembered that a short-term levy can get a project off to a successful start, but it is not long term for the life of the project. He also noted the current levy would run out after three years.

D. Park Board Recognition Award

Calister previously received Board input regarding the annual award for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space volunteers, and has written and edited a document detailing purpose and criteria. *Querry will e-mail the document to the Board.*

VI. New Business

A. Special Events - July 4th & Derby Days

Hopkins reported that the fundraising organization, *Celebrate Redmond*, could not succeed due to the poor economy in terms of corporate giving. This year, King County withdrew from Redmond's 4th of July celebration, as did the Chamber of Commerce from administering Derby Days. Thus, the City carried both events using its existing resources.

Staff will be presenting to Parks and Human Services Committee and to City Council in September a request for one-time funding of these two special events for next year. Staff will ensure the funding issues are understood in order to secure resources to facilitate earlier planning. In November, a broader discussion will take place with Council in preparation for the budget.

Kelsey asked what value the events are contributing to the community, and whether or not the events should continue. Hopkins answered affirmatively for Redmond Lights and Derby Days/4th of July:

- They provide connectivity with the community
- People are exposed to Redmond
- Signature events, unique, involving community pride and a partnership between the City and private sector donations
- A large amount of corporate giving and community volunteers
- An estimated \$2 million of additional money is spent in Redmond not be normally spent
- Revenue is generated by tourism because of the sales tax it provides to Redmond

Motion to recommend to City Council that the Park Board supports the continuation of these programs by: Seth Kelsey

Discussion: The Board was in agreement; however, Hopkins asked they consider these alternatives in place of a motion at this time:

- Send a Board representative to City Council study session on 11/25/03
- Send a Board representative to City Council as Items from the Audience on 9/16/03 to support the agenda issue on Derby Days/4th of July funding (*Kelsey will attend and possibly Querry*)
- A motion would have more impact during the budget cycle

The motion was postponed.

B. Perrigo Park Artist Selection

Cox reported that Melna Skillingstead, Arts Coordinator, asked if a Park Board representative would be available to help audition potential artists for the Perrigo Community Park artwork. Participation would involve about two to three hours during the day in October. Cox will re-send the e-mail from Skillingstead to clarify the date and commitment requirements. Querry supported having a member represent the Board. *Discussion would be continued through e-mail.*

C. City Hall - Central Park

Cox reported that a new municipal campus/special use park is identified in the PRO Plan. Staff is making this fact known to committees discussing the new City Hall. The design will incorporate a trail as an important component,

linking the City Hall to the Sammamish River Trail. He reiterated the project manager will be invited to the September 24 joint Commissions meeting to present an overview.

Degenstein relayed that Horace Mann Elementary School designed and constructed a textured concrete trail. The trail uses an integrated "outside theme" throughout the building, weaving the theme from inside to the outside. He invited all to look at it to get ideas.

The City will make a selection for the City Hall architect on September 15. Stewart asked if the Board should give input either as a collective body through a letter or as offering individual opinions. Degenstein believed the Board should limit input as a Board on park elements only, not on the architect selection. Query suggested discussion at the 9/24/03 joint meeting on how the Board/Commissions could work together representing their interests, e.g., testifying or writing letters, etc.

D. Edge City Presentation - Redmond's Park System

Hopkins will be giving a PowerPoint demonstration of Redmond's park system at the Edge City Conference in Chicago the week of September 15. The conference will deal with the uniqueness of cities being "on the edge," and invited Hopkins to speak on Redmond's park system. He showed the Board the demo, which covered the following items:

- Why invest in a park system
- Why special events are important (Derby Days/4th of July/Redmond Lights)
- Economic impacts of special events
- Visual arts and culture
- Partnering with Marymoor Park Concerts
- Community partners in sports (including local leagues bringing in revenue)
- Environmental resources (economic commitment to natural resources)
- Infrastructure investment
- Awards (promote the programs)
- Marketing

VII. Reports

A. Project Updates

- Grass Lawn Park
 - Topping soon to be completed for the tennis courts
 - A slight delay in the lighting installation
 - Concrete to be poured soon
 - On time and on budget
 - Field turf down in October
- Perrigo Community Park
 - Contractor placed an additional crew on the project
 - Concrete work started 9/5/03
 - Water district moratorium and outcome of negotiations: City will provide irrigation, Union Hill Water Association will provide domestic water from a tap into their line
 - Gravel going down for field turf 9/5/03
 - Restroom foundation has been poured
 - Fencing installed in the next couple weeks
- ORSCC
 - Renovation underway
 - Construction schedule; 90 days to wrap up
- East Lake Sammamish Trail (City of Sammamish portion)
 - ***Cox will e-mail an update to Board***
 - Redmond owns property inside Sammamish city limits; Redmond is now negotiating and working out issues to transfer the land to Sammamish to develop. The transfer would have the caveat that the development be available to both cities' residents, and that Redmond would be involved in the development plan.

B. Coming Attractions

- PRO Plan Issues
 - Draft available to Board next month (not the final, but without strikeouts)
 - City Council study session in October to discuss issues associated with the PRO Plan, showing its departures from the previous document, for example:
 - ♦ no policies included in the new PRO Plan
 - ♦ policy references are made to Comp Plan
 - ♦ counting inventory differently, incorporating other facilities outside City limits that are used by Redmond residents; facilities that address the community needs
 - ♦ PIP with the dollar figures

- Sammamish Slough Park Transfer
 - To be given from King County, but restrained by technicalities associated with the artwork
 - City attorney is working on this issue
- BNSF (attorney evaluation)
- Land Acquisition List (freshening up the current list)

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Seth Kelsey

Second by: David Ladd

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

By: _____
Suzanne Querry, Vice Chair

_____ Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

Optional Bear Creek Trail Walk

September 24, 2003

6:00 p.m.

Location: Saturday Market area - Redmond Town Center

Special Joint Meeting with RAC and RTC

September 24, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Location: Senior Center

Next Regular Meeting

October 2, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center